

SOURCES OF LOVE AND HATE

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cutting out, etc. She has used scissors since she was two."

This little girl, thus, first solved her problem of how to deal with aggressive impulses of various kinds, which from her later phantasies we can see were, among others, being dirty, burning things and wetting, by a complete flight to one particular phantasy. It was not safe to be a little girl and to be aggressive. If one feels so aggressive the only thing to do is to be a cat. Cats are allowed to have claws and to be greedy and to eat off the floor. They are not hurt or destroyed for being so. Cats can even clean themselves in a way that for a human child would be considered dirty, that is, by licking with saliva. This sudden complete identification with an animal is a frequent device of little children in actual analysis, if there should be a sudden uprush of aggressive impulses. But it does not remain fixed in the manner in which this little girl's cat phantasy did. What is so specially interesting about this case, however, is not merely this unusual crystallisation of a definite animal identification, but the sudden change to the opposite *type* of mechanism following on the real experience of being actually scratched by the real cat. This event evidently broke the magic circle of phantasy for the child, by showing her that one could get real injury even if one was a cat. It is possible that she had thought that cats were never really aggressive, although they had claws. Now she discovered that it was unsafe to be one cat with another. Thereafter her chief mental drive is towards ego development, learning to eat tidily, to be neat and clean, to control her urine perfectly, to read and write, to sew and model. Fortunately phantasy is not completely

repressed, and in her imaginary friends and the naughty things they do, she is able to gain some vicarious satisfaction for her own impulses. "Olly's" danger when she jumps up to the ceiling after the real child's ball, and swings on a cobweb, is a hint of the dangers which the child apprehended for herself—only a cobweb between her and destruction, if she was greedy and naughty. The Teddy Bear who puts marmalade over everything", and burns "all the things in the house", is another clear sign of the child's own aggressive wishes. Another very interesting point in this little girl's development is the way in which her real behaviour actually improved after the new baby came—another instance of the